

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

Disclosed are a A method and apparatus for ensuring the integrity of data. ~~In one embodiment, the present invention, for~~ For a plurality of data packets comprising a plurality of first data segments and a plurality of second data segments, calculates a cryptographic checksum is calculated for the plurality of first data segments, and enables the The cryptographic checksum is enabled for the plurality of first data segments to be transmitted separately from the plurality of data packets.